

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT NO.

25X1

SUBJECT Werk fuer Fernmeldewesen HF (OSW)
Production and Personnel

DATE DISTR. 16 July 1953

NO. OF PAGES 24

25X1 DATE OF INFO.

REQUIREMENT NO.

25X1

PLACE ACQUIRED

REFERENCES

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1. Production in March and First Quarter 1953

The plan for the first quarter was filled to 85%.¹ Details are as follows:

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>March 1953 Quota</u>	<u>First Quarter Percentage</u>
Metal ceramic tubes	3,000	6,000	55%
9" CRT (cathode ray tubes)	12,250	9,000	not known
Radio tubes	135,000	190,000	59%
Large transmitter tubes	19	22	not known
Stabilizers	not known		40%
Thyratrons (Stromtore)	"	"	79%
Discharge lamps	"	"	105%
Technical tubes	"	"	78%
Instruments	"	"	65%
Transmitter tubes	"	"	92%

2. Shortage of Materials

a. Production of metal ceramic tubes has almost stopped for the following reasons:

- (1) Zirconium oxide which the Elektrochemisches Kombinat Bitterfeld should be supplying is not available, and production of the ceramic material has therefore come to a complete standstill.
- (2) Thorium is not available. This can only be obtained at great expense from the West in small quantities (50 gm lots).

b. Rejected components are being re-conditioned so that some metal ceramic tubes can be produced. Future prospects are dim.

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c. Copper sheet free of Protoxide (Oxydul) for the production and development of transmitter tubes is not available. Recent batches from Hettstedt (350 kg) and Funkwerk Erfurt (50 kg) have been unusable. The copper becomes porous and no longer vacuum tight when it is welded in a hydrogen atmosphere.

d. The failure of the factory to achieve its production quota for radio tubes is also due to shortage of materials. Those in insufficient supply include copper-nickel sheathed wire (Manteldraht) from Hettstedt, cathode nickel from Hettstedt and usable heater wire for heater coils. Some employees have therefore been sent on involuntary leave.

3. Discharge lamps

The production and development of discharge lamps is to be transferred from the Werk HF to the Berliner Gluehlampenwerk (BGW). The Ministry for Posts and Telecommunications has issued instructions that the transfer is to be completed by 1 May, although work has not yet been started on the buildings in the BGW.

4. Military type tubes

Dr. Lange of Leipzig-Plagwitz visited the factory in late March to request the delivery of 40 tubes type IG 80, 10 type 726, (10 cms klystron), 20 type 723 AB (3 cms klystron), and 20 type 730 (magnetron) as soon as possible, because he was at the moment unable to import any from the West.

5. Klystrons

a. The klystron 707B (= RK 2 K 28), with an operating wavelength of about 10 cms. is being developed and will be available for delivery in early June.

b. The klystrons 723 AB (3.2cm) and 726 A (10.2cm) which were made in the factory in about 1946 are being reactivated and brought into production. Both are required urgently by the Funkwerk Koeppenick, RFT Leipzig-Plagwitz (see para 4 above), and RFT Bad Blankenburg (which is also engaging in decimeter development.)

6. Cathode ray tube OSW 2109 (5 SP 7)

This was produced in small numbers for the USSR only. About 500 were manufactured altogether. It is not being made at the moment.

7. Commercial television set

a. Two prototypes have been completed. One was handed over to the Russian acceptance officials on 24 March 1953. The second was to be sent to the the Sachsenwerk Radeberg on 7 April for price estimates, etc., so that construction could be started in the third quarter. The set incorporates 14 miniature tubes:

EY 51, PY 80, PL 81, PL 83, PCL 81, 6 AL 5, ECHL 80, 3 x EF 80, 3 x ECC 81,

EBF 80, LK 23 b (9").²

b. The latest conditions set by the Russians specify a 12" quadrilateral tube. The East German electronics firms refused at first to manufacture these tubes, because there is no firm in East Germany which could supply sufficient quantities of the requisite glass tubes (Rohkolben) at a reasonable price. The Russians then proposed that the glass tubes should be supplied by a firm in Czechoslovakia (Sudetenland), which allegedly already supplies West German firms with these tubes. The Czechs have since stated that they are prepared to make immediate delivery of the glass tubes in any quantity required.

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8. Wire drawing

The transfer of the Werk HF's wire plant to the Berliner Gluehlampenwerk and the death of Fechtner, the wire specialist, has resulted in a breakdown in the supply of wire. The wire supplied by the BGW is fragile and cannot be sintered with insulation paste at 1700° as required.

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9. Personnel changes

a. Works Manager, Director Rudi Mueller, is to hand over his post to Dr. Schiller in May 1953. Mueller is to assume a post with the East Berlin City Council.

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